

Why Indoor Base Ball is Popular

Indoor base ball, or base ball indoors, which would probably be a better name for a phase of the national pastime which is played on nearly every enclosure on which a diamond can be marked out, is rapidly being taken up as a fitting sport by organizations which make for the group idea in athletics.

It is estimated that there are several hundred teams now playing the game in some form or other in and about Greater New York, with the clientele growing as its possibilities become apparent to the rank and file, while "up the State" the game has become one of the features of winter amusement. Particularly is this the case in connection with the thousands of members of the National Guard, who are favored with spacious armories, on the drill floors of which they have abundant opportunities to display their athletic proclivities.

In Chicago, which is the birthplace of the game, it is played incessantly, the Knights of Columbus League being a strong organization in which the pennant race is as hotly contested as any big league race in midsummer. The box scores published in the papers after every contest certify to the interest that is shown in the various contests.

In the Y. M. C. A.'s the game also has a hold and the followers of our great national game have a most excellent substitute in the necessarily restricted method of the indoor style.

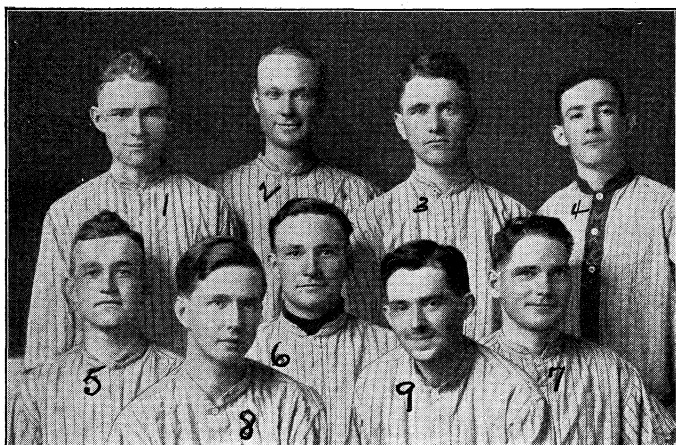
That the game is susceptible of being played by girls is attested by the recognition given to it in the public schools, articles elsewhere in this book presenting the objects and benefits that may accrue under proper instruction and supervision.

Another important idea, and until recently never even thought of, is the adaptation of the indoor game to outdoor winter play. The originators of this style game were a group of young men belonging to some of the prominent social clubs of New York, many of whom had been famous athletes in their college years, who sought a game that would keep them in condition and at the same time afford recreation.

The Interclub League has been in existence now three years, and until building operations evicted them, games were played throughout the winter in a vacant lot on Fifth avenue, opposite Central Park. A minimum age limit of thirty years was established, and so proficently did these former athletes "come back" that the games were productive of remarkable skill and stirring contests and devoid of any travesty that some had been led to expect.

In most of these, regulation diamonds can be laid out to the end that, with the paraphernalia used, all the phases of the game as played outdoors can be had if one is not too exacting in his demands that everything in connection with the indoor brand correspond with its outdoor brother.

Because of these regulation diamonds, and the use of a ball a trifle larger than the outdoor type, with regular outdoor bats, the game has advanced with such progress that many of the big leaguers are sounding its praises as a "prep" medium, while the armories are becoming "Meccas" for those enthusiasts who see in the game one which answers every purpose for a continuance of the sport during the winter season.



1, Alley; 2, Patterson; 3, Cleveland; 4, Nelson; 5, Dilvell; 6, Patterson; 7, Swanson; 8, Zachry; 9, Pearson.

BANKERS' CLUB TEAM, MUSKOGEE, OKLA.



1, Bell, Sec. and Treas. Indoor Base Ball League; 2, Marsh, Mgr.; 3, Noonan, Capt.; 4, Hankla, Umpire; 5, Moore; 6, Brown; 7, Bussman; 8, Bishop; 9, Marguard; 10, Kincer; 11, Walker.

Rosch, Photo.

CENTRAL Y. M. C. A., ST. LOUIS, MO.

It is even stated to be a fact that a number of league teams have requested permission to use the armories for practice during that period of the year when, as a general proposition, they are able to get but little exercise. If it ever can be carried out, spring training trips will be a thing of the past and many thousands of dollars will be saved. The greatest objection to the following out of such a scheme is the one which touches on the large ball which is used in playing the game.

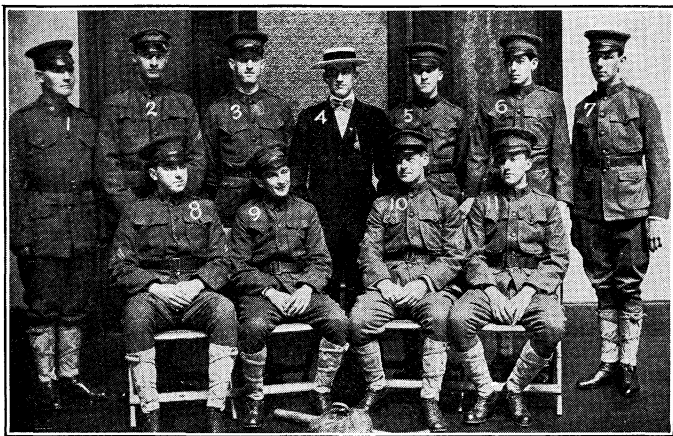
It has been pointed out that the ball used is but a trifle greater in circumference and of the same weight as the Spalding Official National League ball, as used outdoors, and that the wisdom of league managers in forgetting all about going south for the spring practice would be of the farseeing sort if they would take on the armory training idea.

Among the big leaguers who are using the indoor game in order to keep fit during the off season are such stars as "Jake" Danbert, Otto Miller, "Al" Miller, "Rube" Marquard, "Andy" Coakley and "Benny" Kauff, with the prospects that the number will be augmented by others who see its possibilities.

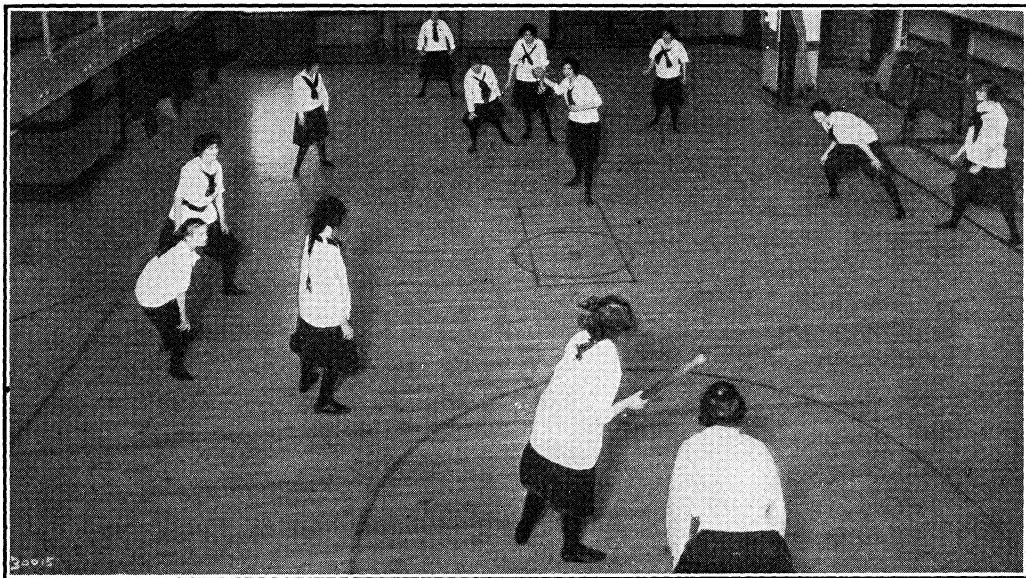
Half a dozen teams, made up principally of big leaguers, will play exhibition games during the winter with local guardsmen teams and tour the districts where the game has organized teams.

The Military Indoor Base Ball League of New York held a most successful series of games last winter and the tournament proved so interesting that the league will be continued during the coming season.

"Andy" Coakley, coach of the Columbia University team, believes that indoor base ball is the best ever for training, and points out that when the Columbia team got outdoors for its early season games the men were in such good shape from their indoor practice that they had a shade on their opponents, who had waited for weather conditions to permit them to practice out of doors.



FOURTEENTH REGIMENT, BROOKLYN, N. Y.



NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS PLAYING INDOOR BASE BALL.

Girls' Indoor Base Ball in the Public Schools of New York

BY ELIZABETH BURCHENAL,

Inspector of Athletics, Department of Education, City of New York.

Since all of the after-school athletic activities sanctioned for the public school girls of New York have been selected by the Girls' Branch of the Public Schools Athletic League with regard to their suitability for girls and not merely an imitation of boys' athletics, it is a significant fact that indoor base ball has been placed on the list of games sanctioned for both elementary and high school girls.

It is played by girls' after-school athletic clubs within the various schools, but never in public or inter-school competition, as inter-school competition for girls is not sanctioned by the league or permitted by the Board of Education.

The introduction of the game was not a difficult matter for two reasons: first, because a large number of women teachers who conduct girls' after-school athletic clubs are familiar with the rules of the ordinary base ball, and, second, because a simpler game had already been adopted and practiced extensively in the girls' athletic clubs of the Girls' Branch. This game, Punch Ball, has been found an excellent preparation for the regular game of indoor base ball.

The principal points in which this game differs from indoor base ball are as follows:

There is no pitcher.

A canvas basket ball is used, and the ball is batted with the fist instead of with a bat by the batter who holds the ball in one hand and bats it with the clenched fist of the other hand.

A team is composed of from six to twelve players, and is placed as follows:

The catcher stands close to the home plate and the rest are scattered as "fielders" over the field. The object of the fielders is to catch and return the ball to the catcher, who tries to catch the ball and stand on the home plate before the batter reaches first base.

In other respects the idea of the game is as in the regular game.

On page 61 the complete rules for Punch Ball are quoted from the Official Handbook of the Girls' Branch of the Public Schools Athletic League published by the American Sports Publishing Company.

Since 1906 girls' athletics have been developed so generally in the New York public schools, that many games which in the past may have been considered too difficult or intricate for school girls are now readily taken up by them and there seems to be no reason why such a game as indoor base ball should not eventually become as popular as basket ball, hockey, and others now well known.

ELIZABETH BURCHENAL,

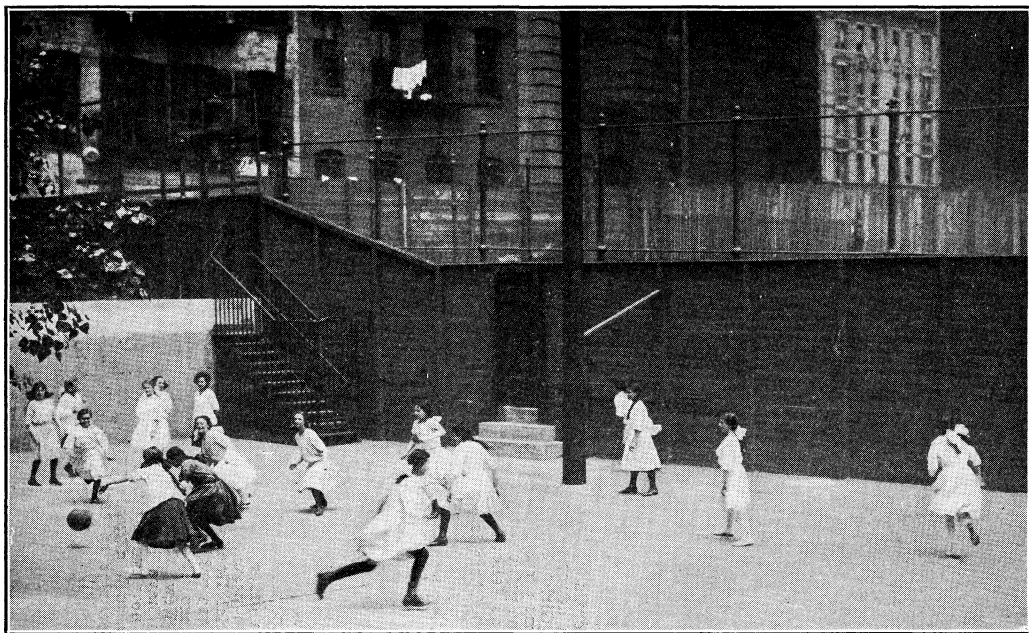
Executive Secretary Girls' Branch P. S. A. L.; Inspector of Athletics.

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RUNNING BASES IN PUNCH BALL.

RULES FOR PUNCH BALL.

From the Official Handbook of the Girls' Branch P. S. A. L. of the City of New York.

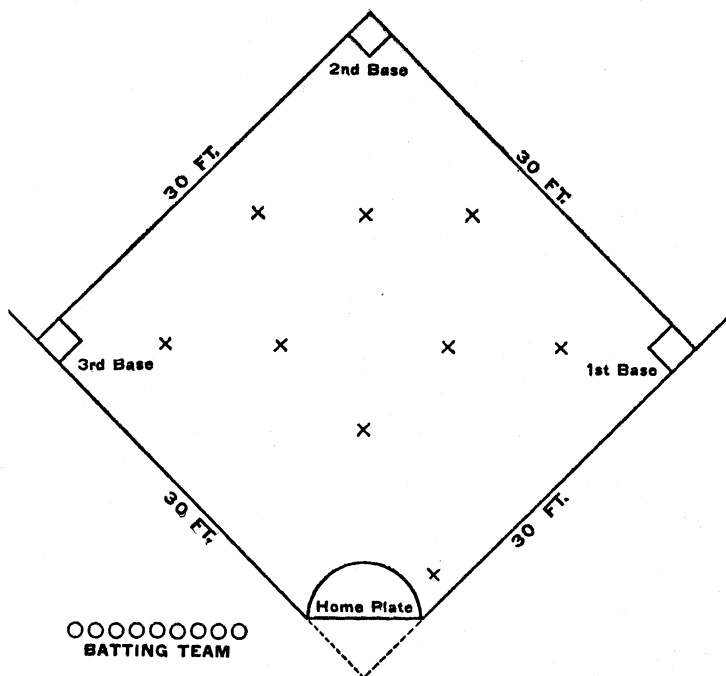
BALL: Light weight basket ball, preferably a *canvas* basket ball.

THE GROUND: Diamond similar to that of base ball diamond, square in shape and measuring from 30 to 40 feet on each side. A larger or smaller space may be used, according to the available space and size of the children. At each of the four points of the diamond, a base, one foot square, shall be marked out, except in the case of the home plate, where a semi-circle three feet in diameter, shall be marked out. A line shall be drawn from the home plate to first base and extending beyond it on the right hand side of the diamond and from the home plate to third base and extending beyond it on the left hand side of the diamond. These lines constitute the foul lines.

PLAYERS: The players shall be divided into two equal teams; any number from six to twelve may play on each team. One team shall be in the field while the other team is at bat. The players shall have a batting order, namely, shall be numbered off as one, two, three, etc., the catcher being number one. The players shall always bat in consecutive order, that is, if number five is the last at bat in a given inning, number six shall be the first at bat in the next inning of that team. The team at bat shall stand to one side of home plate, out of the way of the runners and catcher, while waiting to bat. The players in the field, with the exception of the catcher, shall spread out to cover the field. Crosses may be marked on the diamond to indicate location for each player; but this does not mean that the player shall not move about. The catcher stands close to the home plate. The game shall be started by a command from the referee to "play ball." The catcher, who is then holding the ball, shall toss it to the first batter on the opposing team. The first batter on the opposing team shall stand on the home plate and shall bat the ball with her closed fist, hit it into the field and run to first base.

OBJECT OF THE GAME: The object of the batter is to hit the ball into the field in such a way that it may not be caught by the fielders, and to run to first base. The object of the fielders is to return the ball to their catcher who shall stand on the home plate and hold the ball before the batter reaches first base. If the fielders cuff the ball and are slow in returning it to home plate, the batter who has reached first may continue on to second or third base, or as far as in her judgment she can get before the ball reaches home plate. The player running the bases may always advance a base whenever the opportunity occurs and the ball is in play. The final object of the player running to the bases is to touch each base and to reach the home plate without being put out, thus scoring one run for her side.

AN INNING: An inning consists of each team having a turn at bat. When each team has been at the bat nine times, nine innings shall have been completed and the game ended. The score at the end of these innings is the final score for the game, except in case of a tie at the end of the ninth. In this case, the game continues until one team at the end of one or more innings has scored against the other. Each inning lasts until each team in turn has made three outs, and has been retired. When the first team batting has made three outs, it goes into the field and the team that has been in the field takes its place at bat.



SCORE BOARD

| Innings | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
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| | | | | | | | | | |

PUNCH BALL DIAMOND.

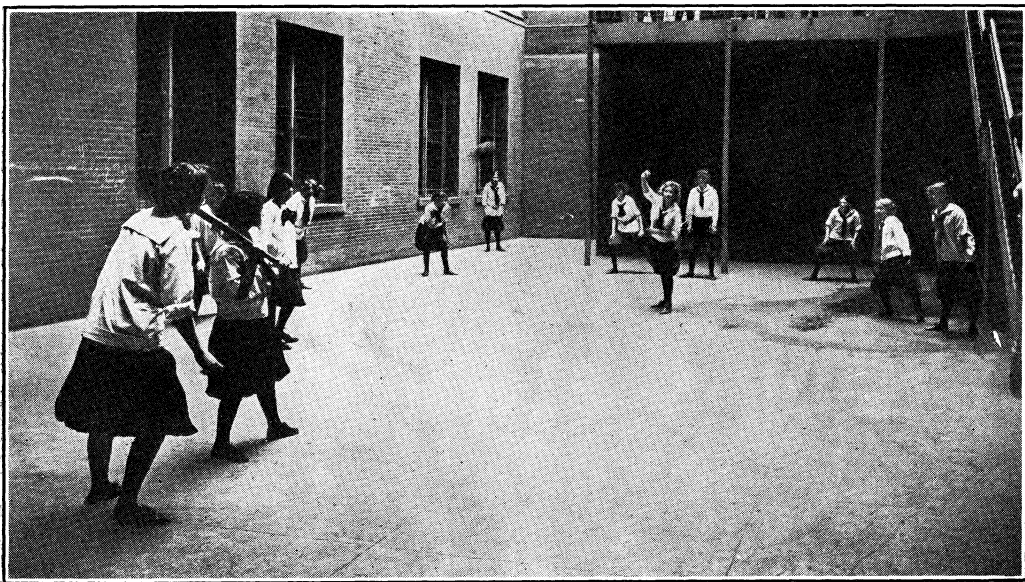
AN OUT: The player is out: 1. If the ball is returned to the home plate before she reaches first base. 2. If the ball she bats is caught on the fly, that is, if the ball is caught by the fielders before it touches the ground. 3. If she at any time is off base when the ball is in play, and the catcher is able to hold the ball with one foot on the home plate and call her name. 4. If in running the bases she neglects to touch each base. 5. If she fails to accept a chance to run to next base, causing two players to be caught on one base.

In scoring an out the catcher shall stand with at least one foot on the home plate, and with the ball securely in her hands.

A FLY BALL: If when the ball is hit out by a batter, any player in the field catches it before it touches the ground, the ball shall have been caught on the fly; the ball shall be out of play; the batter shall be out, and any player running between bases shall return to the base she was on before the ball was batted.

A FOUL: If when the ball is batted it falls outside the foul line, stretching from home plate through first base or from home plate through third base, the ball is foul and is out of play; the batter receives another chance and she is allowed to try until she hits a fair ball. Any player running between bases shall return to the base she held before the foul was made.

THE SCORE: When a player has successfully run from base to base, first, second, third, reaches home plate, she has made a run and scores one for her side. At the end of each inning the number of runs made in that inning shall be marked upon a score board.



INDOOR BASE BALL IN NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD.

The Game's Progress

BY GEORGE W. HANCOCK, THE "FATHER OF INDOOR BASE BALL."

Indoor base ball, as now so universally played throughout the United States and Canada, is practically governed by the same rules as those which obtained at the initial game in the club house of the Far-raguts so many years ago. It has developed many players and a host of interested followers, but in all the seasons the changes in rules have been slight. The principal difficulty to overcome when the game was started was the puzzle of making the run from base to base after a pitched ball. Precise calculation of the time required for the catcher to throw to a base as compared with the time of a runner between bases (27 feet apart) showed that the stealing of second base depended on the speed of the runner, provided he started from first at the time the catcher received the ball. Therefore the rule was made that the runner must not start "until a pitched ball has reached or passed the catcher," and so well has this worked that the same close play is found at second base as when a player tries to steal in the outdoor game under the old rule.

With this point successfully settled, the other rules were more easily evolved, and with the proper balancing of the relative sizes of the bat and ball to meet requirements, the game may be said to have started on its successful career.

Owing to the newness of the game and consequent inexperience of those who played, the score at first oftentimes ran into large figures, the record of the initial contest being 41 to 40. As the play of the athletes improved, the result was much smaller figures and more on the professional basis of base ball, until now, with numerous clubs and leagues all over the country, the game has reached a scientific standpoint hitherto unsuspected of fulfillment.

It can be played in any hall of size which will permit of sufficient light and room for the diamond and fielding, the composition of the floor being immaterial, as the rubber-soled shoes required to be worn will allow running on even the waxed floor of a dancing hall. About the smallest size for a playing floor is 40x50 feet. A larger surface will, of course, allow greater freedom for fielding and running. The spectators are usually placed in the right and left field, on either side of the catcher's territory, and in galleries, according to the construction of the room used for play.

At first the sport was confined to a few of the social clubs of Chicago, which had organized a league, but of late years great strides have been made toward having the game spread all over the United States. Many of the Chicago clubs have made trips to cities East and West and played indoor ball before large crowds of spectators, who had become initiated in the sport, and consequently extremely interested, for it is said of indoor ball that it is the most exciting sport which the winter months give us, for, the space allotted for play usually being somewhat confined, the spectators and players are at no great distance from each other, and the rapid action is of a very exciting nature.

Some excellent players have been developed, especially among amateurs. Several professionals have tried their hand, but find themselves outclassed by the more nimble amateurs, as agility rather than strength enters largely into the sport.

In playing the indoor game, ordinary base ball suits are the proper dress, except that the spiked shoes are done away with and rubber-

soled ones used instead. At the knee and hip the trousers should be thickly padded, as contact with the floor at these points is a common occurrence.

A different style of play is noticeable in the successful indoor player from that adopted outdoors. In sliding to bases there must be perfect abandon, and, sliding well around the bag, the arm can be thrust out in passing and the base held. In batting, the ball can be bunted successfully, and, as the first contact with the floor decides its fairness, this feature is one practiced by many of the best players. Still, it must not be supposed that long hits cannot be made, for many home runs have been credited on drives that are astonishing in their force. The shortstops usually play close to the batter—about ten feet, one on either side of the pitcher, for in the indoor game the right fielder comes into the diamond and takes the position known as "right short."

The umpires' duties are rather difficult, as the quick play and closeness to the players oftentimes actually prevent their seeing the action, but in case one is unable to judge the other may be appealed to.

It is surprising to note the expertness with which girls also can play the game after short practice. Many of the schools have leagues for girls' clubs and under proper training they develop wonderful playing, their contests being highly interesting, though of necessity the number of spectators is more limited.

Indoor base ball is a pleasant, agreeable and moderate sport. It has delighted thousands and incidentally developed an increasing interest in the outdoor game, so closely are the two allied. It has emerged from what was at first termed a "fad" to a well-balanced, exciting sport, and there no longer can be any doubt that it has come to take its proper place among such games as foot ball, cricket, tennis and golf.

The Art of Batting

By W. F. COREY, CHICAGO.

To become a successful batter requires coolness, a good eye, good judgment and a number of other requisites which only come to a man by constant practice.

I have followed the game since its infancy and I have never seen two men whom I can say bat exactly alike. It is quite true the position some batters assume are much alike, some crouch low down, while others stand upright, some drive the ball out hard, while others mix them up and place their hits. I would advise a man to assume an easy natural position so as to be ready for any kind of a ball pitched. Remember the pitcher is always sizing you up to ascertain your weakness while at the bat and you should study him to find out his peculiarities, as every pitcher has them. Some pitchers would rather pitch to a slugger than to a bunter and *vice versa*. Always try to do the opposite to what the pitcher intends to make you do, as nearly as you can judge, and confuse him as much as possible.

Another thing which you must not lose sight of is, that every player on the opposing team is also sizing you up, and by your position and general way of handling yourself they may judge in which direction the ball may go if you hit it. I would advise a batter to conduct himself in such a manner as to mislead his opponent of his intentions. For example, suppose one of your teammates is on base and you wish to advance him and do not want to take a chance on hitting out a fly ball and causing a double play, therefore you decide to bunt; you take your position at the plate, grip your bat firmly and wait for your ball, which should be a low one (never try to bunt a high ball, or you will be easy prey for the shortstops); when you see a low ball coming and it is well on its way to the plate, loosen your grip on the bat, slide your right hand well out to the middle and let the bat give with the ball just as the ball hits it, drop the bat and get to first base with all possible speed.

Another trick which is often worked with success is the fake bunt. The batter holds his bat as if he were going to bunt, thereby drawing in the shortstops up under the bat and causing the fielders to play close in, picks out his ball and meets it squarely. A hit made in this way usually comes at the fielders too hot for them to handle and very frequently there is a mix-up which enables the runners to get more bases than they would get ordinarily.

If at any time you make three strikes never stop to see if the catcher catches the third strike, but run to first base at top speed. It is time enough when you reach the bag to see if you are declared out, and the exertion won't hurt you any.

A left-handed batter has a great advantage over a man who bats right-handed, as the left-handed batter's box is nearer to first base, and his motion has a tendency to throw him into his stride more than that of the right-hander.

I would not advise a man to swing hard at an indoor ball as he usually misses his aim and the force of his swing throws him out of his stride. The proper way is an easy sweeping swing or a short, quick chop.

Another piece of advice and I am done. Never stop to argue with the umpire over balls and strikes, as it only gets you excited and that is just what the pitcher wants, as an excited batter becomes an easy mark for a pitcher.

How to Become a Base Runner

To become a good base runner in indoor base ball, it is highly important that a player be always on the alert to take advantage of all opportunities which may happen to come his way. The clever and successful base runner is not always the man who is naturally fast, but the one who utilizes his speed to the best advantage and will take long chances when the occasion requires it.

The rule which compels a player attempting to steal not to start for the next base until a pitched ball has reached or passed the catcher, results in the same closeness of play at second and third bases as is seen in the outdoor game when a player is trying to steal.

The most important thing for a base runner to learn is the art of sliding to a base. In attempting to steal a base, a player should take a long slide, usually on the inside of the bag, and thrusting out his arm catch hold of the bag in passing. Of course a good deal depends on the position of the baseman and also the cleverness of the man stealing. For instance, if you once get started for a base, keep on and don't look back to see how the throw is, but judge that from the action of the player on the base. If the throw is high, slide in on the inside of the bag. If the baseman is playing in front of the base and the throw is low, then try and get around in back of him.

It is always considered good form in indoor base ball for a player to slide head first, not only because of his being better able to get hold of the bag, but also in being in a better position to see and take advantage of any muffed or wild throw. Then again, it is very important that a man running the bases should watch for any slip on the part of the catcher or any pitched ball which pulls the catcher over in such a position from which it would be hard for him to make a good throw to a base. Such an opportunity should always be his cue when he is looking for a chance to steal.

There is one play which a good base runner may often attempt and sometimes be successful with, and that is in a close game or with two men out and a weak batter up, he tries to steal home plate while the ball is being passed from the catcher to shortstop and from there to the pitcher. It is surprising how a play of this kind often will get a whole crowd on edge and nothing upsets an opponent any more than men taking chances on the bases when the score is close. While at this point it might be well to state that nothing pleases the spectators more than to see shifty and daring base running. They want to see something else besides the pitcher and catcher putting men out. They want to have excitement and life in the game, and clever base running is what gives it to them.

There is always a chance for a wild throw when a base runner is attempting to steal, and nothing puts a team "up in the air" so much as to get them throwing the ball wild.

To sum it all up, the two essentials for a good base runner are, first, to be wide awake to every opportunity, and when you are sure of your ground be quick and decisive in taking a chance; second, to be able to slide to bases well.

Implements of the Game

THE BALL.

The ball will be found to possess properties of a peculiar nature, which, after careful experimenting, have been proved to be best adapted to the sport. It is of a compact substance, 17 inches in circumference, weighs $8\frac{3}{4}$ ounces, has a white cover, and, while lively, it is so made as to do no damage to objects surrounding the field.

THE BAT.

The limit of size of the bat is $2\frac{3}{4}$ feet long and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter at the largest part. The weight is not limited, but the material used is wood possessing great strength, as accidents are liable to occur should the bat break. Bats of different qualities of wood are made so that selections as to style and weight may be made according to individual taste.

THE BASES.

The bases are half filled with sand or other heavy substance so they will remain in place on the floor, unless grasped by the player in running or sliding to the base. They are made of white canvas, 15 inches square, and are not attached to the floor, but placed loosely on a marked spot to which it should be returned whenever displaced. The home base is of rubber, one foot each way, and is also placed on a marked square.

SUITS.

Each club should be properly uniformed with natty suits, consisting of shirt, knee pants, stockings, belt, and shoes.

The pants should either be padded at the knees and hips, or the regular adjustable knee-pad used to prevent actual contact of these parts of the anatomy with the floor.

SHOES.

All shoes worn must have rubber soles; those with corrugated rubber having been found the best.

MATS.

Where bases lie near a wall, padded mats should be stood up opposite, against which the players may strike when running or sliding.

How to Teach Girls to Play Indoor Base Ball

By JOSEPH CERMAK, CHICAGO.

The further we advance in teaching gymnastics the more we must recognize the importance of games in that branch of education called "Physical Culture." Nay, we hear the voices of some of the most prominent physiologists and psychologists who claim that plays are the only ideal form of gymnastic exercises, whereby we can attain marvelous agility, strength, endurance, by which we cultivate self-control, self-reliance, those important faculties, which only enable us to be successful in our strenuous struggle for existence.

Admitting all this, we naturally come to a question, what kind of games will bring us those satisfactory results? Most decidedly those which the children like best—games which arouse pleasant feeling, which we play with joy, with enthusiasm—for such feeling alone is apt to stimulate the heart to a vigorous action and drive the blood and a new life through our whole system. And my long experience as a teacher of gymnastics convinced me that of all the games I have introduced, girls like indoor base ball the best.

Fact is, that we shall find individual girls who do not like the game, but such girls are, as a rule, indifferent to any kind of game, to any kind of physical exercise. Everything is "too much like work" for them. But ninety per cent of our girls, as soon as they learn the simple rudiments of base ball, play it with the same enthusiasm at the end of school year as at the beginning. It is a game which is developing all our bodily powers, a game in which mind must be just as quick as our body, is void of all danger of injury or strain, is a purely American game, and those are the chief reasons for which I have introduced it in our girls' classes, and, allow me to add, with success.

The main problem a teacher encounters in introducing base ball in girls' classes is how much to teach it, so as not to waste the valuable time allotted to gymnastic exercises, and also, be very careful that the girls do not get tired of the game before they learn it. Trying to explain all the points of the game at once will only bewilder girls, and they would immediately come to conclusion that they can never learn it. They come to the gymnasium for physical exercise and mental rest, and we must tax their memory as little as possible. Best thing is to take a little resort to strategy, follow a simple rule of pedagogy, so to speak, teach the game by degrees and make them believe that they play "the real thing" in the first hour. It is easy to give them only a rough outline of the game at the start. They can play without knowing anything about "balls" and "strikes," without knowing what "stealing a base," a "forced run," a "double play" mean. "Hit and run" and "try to get home without being tagged," is about all that the "ins" need to know, and "catch the ball and tag the runner" is all that the "outs" need to know. But, of course, the main part of the game, when you have a class of beginners, is played by the instructor. He himself must be a good player, and in order to make the game lively for the beginners, he takes a position in the pitcher's box. Then he lets the batter hit the ball, at the same time giving quick and short directions to the "outs" what to do. He must pitch the ball so that the girl cannot help making a good hit, and if the "outs" are rather slow in getting the ball, he must do it himself, thus giving them an example "how to do it next time." In fact, a teacher must play a main part of the game himself with such a class, otherwise the "ins" would have an

easy time in making runs, and you would have a listless, disinteresting game, and the time devoted to games would be wasted. It is not necessary to add that a teacher must play as a pitcher for both sides.

In the meantime, while the play goes on, point after point comes up, which the teacher always explains, thus adding more and more interest to the game. Hard work for the instructor? It is, but when you see the girls returning to their rooms with sparkling eyes and flushed cheeks, full of new life, full of mirth, full of healthy excitement, when you see those beautiful roses in their cheeks, you must feel that you have been sufficiently rewarded for your hard work.

But that is not all. Pitching and playing for both sides is all right as far as it goes, but the more the girls know about the game the more anxious they are to play it as it should be played, and, of course, with their own pitcher. And "there is a rub." You cannot have a good lively game if you have not a good pitcher in the box. How to find a girl who can play this important position? How to select a catcher, shortstops, basemen, fielders? It takes a little time, but by close observation of players you can in a short time divide the class into two regular teams and "line them up" according to the best abilities of different players. There are always short intermissions during the game and those afford a teacher an excellent opportunity to look for "talent." Standing in the pitcher's box, throw the ball to those who happen to be idle, and you by chance discover a good catcher, good baseman, or a good fielder. Ask the girls to send the ball back to you as fast as they can "underhand," or "overhand," and you easily discover the "coming pitcher." And before the school year is over you have a class divided in two teams, lined up and ready to play a lively game of base ball whenever called upon.

At the Medill High School almost every class of girls from the second year up is divided in two teams—sometimes, of course, with more fielders than is necessary—but the main object (after a regular lesson in gymnastics) to give them a good, interesting, lively game is obtained, and if they play only three innings, they get enough exercise out of it, while some classes become such experts in the game that very often they play five and even seven innings in 15 to 20 minutes.

There are, however, some objectionable features in the game which must be eliminated if we wish to introduce it in the girls' classes. All kinds of "sliding," "blocking," "tripping," and all such "smart tricks" must be left out. Playing "such a ball" might perhaps help to win a game, but such game will not make our girls more refined, more gentle.

As the girls in our high schools and colleges take more and more interest in indoor base ball, it would be well to modify the rules by proper authorities, as was done with basket ball. But care should be taken so as not to sacrifice all the interesting and scientific features of the game to the desire of "modification."

Constitution

ARTICLE I.

NAME AND OBJECTS.

This organization shall be known as the NATIONAL INDOOR BASE BALL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The objects of the Association are:

1. To perpetuate Indoor Base Ball as the national winter game of the United States and to surround it with such safeguards as to warrant for the future absolute public confidence in its integrity and methods.
2. To protect and promote the mutual interests of Indoor Base Ball clubs and players.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any Indoor Base Ball league or club may become a member of this Association on written application to the Secretary of the Association, signed by the President and Secretary, accompanied by documents showing that said club is regularly organized and officered.

ARTICLE III.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

- (1) By resignation, duly accepted by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
- (2) Playing any game of ball with a club that has been disqualified.
- (3) Offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any game of ball, or failing to immediately expel any player who shall be proven guilty of offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any game of ball.
- (4) Failing or refusing to comply with any lawful requirement of the Executive Committee.
- (5) Wilfully violating any provision of the Constitution or the legislation or playing rules in pursuance thereof.

ARTICLE IV.

EXPULSION OF CLUBS AND OFFICERS.

(1) To carry into effect the provision of Clause 4, Article 3, of this Constitution, the facts in any case, covered by such sections, must be reported to the Secretary of the Association, who shall at once notify, by mail or telegraph, the party charged with the offense, inquiring whether any dispute exists as to the facts alleged.

In case the facts are disputed, the Executive Committee shall, after due notice, try the case under such regulations as they may prescribe, and their finding shall be final and conclusive on all parties.

(2) Any member holding a position in this Association, either as an officer or a member of a committee, who shall be charged in writing by three executive officers of this Association with malfeasance in office, or with conduct prejudicial to the interest of the Association, may be suspended by the President pending an investigation of the charge.

(3) Any officer or member against whom charges have been preferred, as above, shall be furnished with a copy of the charge, and shall be heard in his own defense before the Executive Committee. And if found guilty of the charges preferred, may be reprimanded, suspended for a specified time, removed from his position or expelled from the Association.

ARTICLE V.

ELECTIONS.

Between the first day of March and the first day of April each year, any regularly organized Indoor Base Ball Club, a member of the Association, shall have the right to appoint a delegate to attend a meeting, which shall be duly advertised, for the purpose of electing nine members to constitute the Executive Committee. Said committee shall elect a President-Secretary, First and Second Vice-President, and Treasurer, whose term of office shall be for one year.

ARTICLE VI.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. (A) The President shall be the Secretary of the Association, appoint all committees and perform such other duties as pertain to his office, or such as the Association or Executive Committee may assign him.

(B) He shall sign all necessary documents and have the casting vote, in case of a tie, on all questions.

(C) He shall be the sole interpreter of the playing rules during the season.

(D) He shall, as Secretary of the Association, have custody and care of the seal of the Association and all official records and documents, shall receive and answer all correspondence, issue all official notices, and shall prepare and furnish such reports as may be called for by the Executive Committee.

SEC. 2. The Vice-Presidents, in the order of their priority, shall, in case of disability of the President, perform all the duties by him ordinarily to be performed, and in case of death, resignation or removal of the President, shall fill the office for the remainder of the term.

SEC. 3. The Treasurer shall have charge of any and all funds of the Association.

Any officer or director of the Association desiring to resign shall present his resignation to the Executive Committee in writing.

ARTICLE VII.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to carry out the objects and purposes of the Association.

(1) To admit to membership any Association or organization eligible under the Constitution.

(2) To amend the By-Laws and Rules for the government of the Association, or the playing rules thereof.

(3) To impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Constitution, By-Laws or Playing Rules of this Association.

(4) By a majority vote, to remove any suspension or remit any penalty pertaining to any person or organization.

(5) By a two-thirds vote, to remove from office on seven days' written notice, any member of the Executive Committee, who, by

neglect of duty or by conduct tending to impair his usefulness as a member of such committee, shall be deemed to have forfeited his position.

(6) To fill vacancies in the Executive Committee occurring from any cause.

ARTICLE VIII.

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD.

Each State shall have one or more advisory members, who shall constitute a National Advisory Board of Directors who shall have charge of the affairs of the Association in their respective territories, and shall promote and foster the game of Indoor Base Ball in their respective territories, and submit in writing an annual report to the Executive Committee covering the progress of the game, and advice and suggestions for the betterment of the organization or playing rules. Said members thus appointed shall be understood as voicing the opinion and sentiment of said State from which he was appointed, and such opinion or sentiment shall be given careful consideration by the Executive Committee in giving final decision bearing on the subject.

Any protest that cannot be handled by a local league shall be referred to the Advisory member in charge of the territory, who shall appoint two disinterested parties to act with him as a committee, and shall, after due notice, try the case under such regulations as they may prescribe and their findings shall be final and conclusive on all parties unless an interpretation of the rules be involved, in which case an appeal may be taken to the President of the Association and his ruling shall be final.

ARTICLE IX.

The Secretary, upon the written request of a member of the Executive Committee, or three members of the Association, shall submit any question to a vote of the Executive Committee. Within five days after the vote on the question he shall mail to each member of the Association the question and the result of the vote.

ARTICLE X.

AMENDMENTS.

(1) The Constitution of this Association may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee, providing such alterations or amendments have been submitted in writing, together with the name of the member proposing it.

(2) Any section of this Constitution may be suspended or its provisions made non-applicable by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

Organization of Leagues

The first step to be taken is to get the proper parties interested. Call a general meeting, elect temporary officers, appoint a committee to draw up a Constitution, and also a press committee that will write up the affairs and secure plenty of advertising. At the next meeting select the most desirable teams that apply for membership, aiming to get quality rather than quantity. Then adopt your Constitution, elect officers, etc.

A good idea would be to register with the Secretary all the players of the various teams composing the league, and have the directors pass upon their eligibility. Be careful not to admit any one addicted to rowdy ball playing, as nothing will so quickly gain for a team a bad reputation or is more detrimental to the sport at large.

As the game is an amateur sport, the practice of paying players for their services should be frowned upon, as the receipts do not warrant salaried ball players, and only a wealthy club could afford to support such a team, and they would soon become tired of the continual drain on their treasury. In a league where such practice would be allowed one or two of the wealthy clubs would gather together all the best talent in the town, and their teams would so far outclass the other teams of the league that the result would be to deaden the interest of both the public and the teams themselves.

Another point to which careful attention should be given is the selection of officials. See that competent and impartial umpires and scorers are secured, and that the scores are turned over to the Secretary after each game, so that the average of the players can be kept, as they are very interesting to both the public and the players. See that the umpire gets the respect due him, back him up in his official acts, and do not countenance continual kicking by the players.

Last, but not least, see that the press committee keep the press supplied with information concerning the affairs of the league and secure advertising wherever possible.

The following is practically a copy of the Constitution of the Chicago Indoor Base Ball League, and has worked smoothly for the past ten or twelve years.

Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I—NAME.

This organization shall be known as the.....
INDOOR BASE BALL LEAGUE.

ARTICLE II—OBJECTS.

To promote the game of indoor base ball among the clubs of.....

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of this league shall consist of.....
clubs from the recognized..... clubs of.....

ARTICLE IV—TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of any club may be terminated—

- (1) By resignation, duly accepted by a three-fourths vote of all the clubs in meeting duly convened.
- (2) Allowing open betting or pool selling at a game, or in room in which game is played.
- (3) Playing any game of ball with a club that has been disqualified.
- (4) Allowing any player to play on team that has been expelled by the League or any club thereof.
- (5) Offering, agreeing, conspiring, or attempting to lose any game of ball or of being interested in any pool or wager thereon.
- (6) Failing or refusing to comply with any lawful requirements of the Board of Directors.
- (7) Wilfully violating any provision of the Constitution or the legislation or playing rules in pursuance thereof.

ARTICLE V—EXPULSION OF CLUBS.

Any club is liable to expulsion that fails to live up to the Constitution; the facts in any case must be reported at once to the Secretary, who shall at once notify the party charged with the offense, inquiring whether any dispute exists as to the facts alleged. In case the facts are disputed, the Board of Directors shall, after due notice, try the case under such regulation as they prescribe, and their finding shall be final and conclusive.

ARTICLE VI—REGISTRATION AND ASSESSMENTS.

Each club shall file with the secretary on or before the day of, registration of each player, accompanied by the necessary fee, and shall deposit with the secretary \$....., cash, same to be forfeited on expulsion or withdrawal of club.

A special assessment may be levied by the Board of Directors to cover any deficit that may exist.

ARTICLE VII—IMPOSING OF FINES.

Upon conviction of any violation of the Constitution or By-Laws, the Board of Directors may, in the first instance, as a preliminary to or in lieu of expulsion, impose such a fine as is in their judgment commensurate with the injury, which fine may include a penalty payable to any other club or clubs, as an equivalent for damage sustained, or payable to the League, to be disposed of as the Board of Directors see fit.

The Arbitration Committee shall have the power to impose such fine on any club or player reported for violation of the Constitution or playing rules, as in their judgment the case warrants.

ARTICLE VIII—OFFICERS.

Each club of the League shall be entitled to two (2) delegates to the League, which shall constitute the governing body of said League, from which shall be elected a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and six (6) directors, which shall constitute the Board of Directors; no two (2) shall be elected from any one club. Amended that President be non-representative of any club represented in the League.

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the League and Board of Directors; appoint all committees, and perform such other duties as pertain to his office or may be assigned him by Board of Directors.

He shall, with the Secretary, sign all necessary documents. He shall have the casting vote, in case of a tie, on all questions at both League and Board meetings.

In absence of the President at any meeting of the League, the Vice-President shall exercise the power and duties of the President at such meetings.

ARTICLE X—SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall be treasurer of the League, and as such shall be custodian of all funds of the League, and shall render monthly a report of his account. He shall have the custody and care of all official records and documents; shall keep a true record of all meetings of the League and Board of Directors; shall issue all official notices and attend to the necessary correspondence.

He shall be entitled to such books, stationery, and material as the actual duties of his office may require (and shall keep a complete record of all games played).

ARTICLE XI—DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to carry out the objects and purposes of the League. They shall have the power to adopt such rules and regulations as they may deem necessary for the government of the League on matters not determined by the By-Laws or special action of the League, and may enforce a due observance of the same by such actions as in the opinion of the Board of Directors the welfare of the League may render necessary or advisable.

They shall have power to receive and act upon all resignations of members, officers, and directors.

Any officer or director of the League desiring to resign shall present his resignation to the Board in writing.

ARTICLE XII—PROTESTS.

All protests shall be settled by an Arbitration Committee of five, to be appointed by the Board of Directors, and must not be connected with any team or club of this League.

All protests must be in writing and in the hands of the Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours after the game.

Protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$5.00.

ARTICLE XIII—UMPIRES AND THEIR DUTIES.

A staff of League umpires shall be selected by a chief of umpires (chief of umpires to be selected by the delegates), who will have full charge of same and direct them when and where to officiate, and shall pay them their salaries.

He shall furnish umpires with proper credentials to show that they are duly authorized to officiate.

(1) It shall be the duty of the umpire to enforce the rules as they are written, regardless of his personal opinion as to their merit.

(2) The umpire is sole and absolute judge of play.

In no instance (under penalty of fine, to be imposed by Arbitration Committee), shall any person, except the captains of the competing teams, be allowed to address him or question his decision, and they can only question him on an interpretation of the rules.

No manager or any other officer of either club shall be permitted to go on the field or address the umpire under a penalty of a forfeiture of a game.

(3) Before the commencement of a game, the umpire of the game shall see that the rules governing all the materials of the game are strictly observed.

He shall ask the captain of the home club whether there are any special ground rules to be enforced, and if there are he shall see that they are duly enforced, provided they do not conflict with any of these rules.

(4) Umpires shall call game at 8:30 P. M., sharp.

(5) The umpires must keep the contesting nines playing constantly from the commencement of the game to its termination, allowing such delays only as are rendered unavoidable by accident or injury. He must, until the completion of the game, require the players of each side to promptly take their positions in the field as soon as the third man is put out, and must require the first batter of the opposite side to be in his position at the bat as soon as the fielders are in their places.

The umpire may remove from the game any player guilty of vulgar, indecent or other improper conduct or language, and shall report same to the Arbitration Committee.

(6) It is the duty of the umpire to stop any offensive "rooting" or noise, and to positively prohibit all continuous "rooting" under penalty of a forfeiture of the game by the side at fault.

ARTICLE XIV—COACHING.

The coaches shall be restricted to coaching the base runner only, and shall not be allowed to address any remarks except to the base runner, and then only in words of necessary direction; and shall not use language which shall in any manner refer to or reflect upon a player of the opposing team, the umpire or the spectators; and not more than one coach will be allowed with one runner on base, and two coaches with two or three runners on bases.

To enforce the above the captain of the opposite side may call the attention of the umpire to the offense, and upon a repetition of the same, the offending player shall be debarred from further participation in the game.

ARTICLE XV—REMOVAL.

Any League umpire shall be subject to removal by the Board of Directors, and in the event of the resignation or removal of any League umpire the chief of umpires shall have power to appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy thus created.

ARTICLE XVI—CAUSE FOR EXPULSION.

Any League umpire who shall, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, be guilty of ungentlemanly conduct, or of selling or offering to sell a game of which he is umpire, shall thereupon be removed from his official capacity.

ARTICLE XVII—MEETINGS.

Meetings of the League and Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the chair at least once a month or upon written request of three (3) clubs, three (3) days' notice being necessary.

ARTICLE XVIII—GAMES PLAYED.

It shall be the duty of the manager or his assistant, of the winning team, to notify the Secretary, within forty-eight (48) hours after game is played, the final result of said game, giving complete individual and total score.

ARTICLE XIX—BALL.

The Spalding Official Indoor League Ball shall be the official ball of the League and must be used in all League games of the League and be stamped with seal of League.

ARTICLE XX—TIE GAMES.

All the games shall be decided within three (3) weeks from date of tie.

ARTICLE XXI—RULES.

The Spalding Indoor Base Ball Rules shall govern all games played in this League.

ARTICLE XXII—WINNING OF PENNANT.

The club having the largest percentage at the end of season shall be declared winner of pennant.

ARTICLE XXIII—MEMBERS OF TEAM.

Any person in good standing with the League may play on any team represented in the League.

A player who plays a League game with a club in this League cannot play a League game with any other club in this League unless he gets a written release from the manager of club with which he has played.

ARTICLE XXIV—REGISTRATION.

The manager of each club shall be required to register the players of his team (regular and substitute) with the secretary. Each registration to be accompanied by a fee of twenty-five (25) cents.

Players must be registered one week before they are eligible to play. Their personal signature to be attached to said registration blank.

Managers shall have option on services of players so registered for the next season, and any player desiring his release shall appeal to the Arbitration Committee.

ARTICLE XXV—RULES GOVERNING MEETINGS.

Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of the League.

ARTICLE XXVI—MISCELLANEOUS.

1, roll call; 2, reading of minutes of last meeting; 3, report of committees; 4, report of officers; 5, reading of correspondence; 6, election of new members; 7, unfinished business; 8, new business; 9, adjournment.

ARTICLE XXVII—AMENDMENTS.

The Constitution of the League may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote of all the delegates present at any regular or special meeting of the League called for that purpose, provided such alterations or amendments have been submitted in writing and entered on the minutes, together with the name of the person proposing it, at a previous meeting of the League.

Any section of the Constitution may be suspended or its provisions made non-applicable by unanimous vote at a League meeting.